

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 071728

20

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 INR-10 RSC-01 /041 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ VN: L. B. ASKEW: AOA

4/14/73 EXT 22038

APPROVED BY EA/ RA: R. W. MOORE

S/ P- DC CUTHELL

----- 097161

R 172148 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 071728

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: SECRETARY' S FOREIGN POLICY REPORT

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. TEXT OF SECTION ON VIET- NAM IN SECRETARY' S 1972 REPORT
ON U. S. FOREIGN POLICY FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT: THE YEAR 1972 WILL STAND OUT AS THE TURNING
POINT IN THE VIET- NAM CONFLICT-- THE TIME WHEN THE FOUNDA-
TIONS WERE LAID FOR REACHING THE AGREEMENT THAT HAS
ENDED THE WAR THERE.

IN THE SPRING NORTH VIET- NAM MADE ITS MOST DESPERATE
EFFORT TO REVERSE ITS WANING FORTUNES IN THE SOUTH BY
A SUDDEN, MASSIVE APPLICATION OF MILITARY FORCE. THE
SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE DEMONSTRATED THEIR
WILL AND CAPABILITY TO DEFEND THEMSELVES BY EFFECTIVECY
BLUNTING THE INVASION AND DENYING HANOI' S MAJOR OBJECTIVES.

ON MAY 8 PRESIDENT NIXON REASSERTED AMERICA' S DETER-
MINATION TO STAND BY ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AND COMMITMENTS
AND UNDERTOOK SUCH FIRM MEASURES AS THE MINING OF THE
NORTH VIETNAMESE HARBORS AND INTENSIFIED BOMBING OF IN-
VASION SUPPORT TARGETS TO ASSIST THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 071728

IN THEIR SELF- DEFENSE. AT THE SAME TIME THE PRESIDENT
SET FORTH NEW PROPOSALS FOR PEACE, PROVIDING FOR AN IN-

TERNATIONALLY SUPERVISED CEASEFIRE, THE RETURN OF ALL AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR, THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL OF OUR

REMAINING FORCES FROM VIET- NAM, AND THE CESSATION OF ALL U. S. ACTS OF FORCE THROUGHOUT INDOCHINA. THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION-- COMBINING STEADFAST RESISTANCE TO HANOI'S MILITARY THREAT WITH GENEROUS PROPOSALS FOR ENDING THE FIGHTING-- PROVED TO BE A VITAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE BREAKTHROUGH IN NEGOTIATIONS WHICH CAME IN OCTOBER.

DURING THE YEAR THE UNITED STATES CONTINUED ITS RAPID DRAWDOWN OF FORCES FROM VIET- NAM, EVEN THOUGH THE SPRING ATTACKS REQUIRED A TEMPORARY AUGMENTATION OF U. S. NAVAL VESSELS AND COMBAT AIRCRAFT. IN 1972, 135,000 U. S. TROOPS WERE BROUGHT HOME, LEAVING ONLY 24,000 U. S. SUPPORT AND LOGISTICAL TROOPS IN VIET- NAM AT THE BEGINNING OF 1973 COMPARED TO AN ARMY OF OVER A HALF A MILLION MEN IN 1969. U. S. BATTLE DEATHS DECREASED TO AN AVERAGE OF SIX A WEEK IN 1972 COMPARED TO 26 A WEEK THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

SOUTH VIET- NAM'S OTHER ALLIES ALSO CONTINUED TO WITHDRAW THEIR TROOPS. COMBAT FORCES OF THAILAND AND ALL FORCES OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND RETURNED HOME BY THE END OF THE YEAR. THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, WHICH HAD A FORCE OF APPROXIMATELY 46,000 AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR, WITHDREW ABOUT 8,000 TROOPS AND WAS PREPARING FOR THE RAPID REMOVAL OF THE REMAINING FORCES.

NEGOTIATIONS - IN OCTOBER NORTH VIET- NAM INDICATED ITS READINESS TO UNDERTAKE SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS FOR A PEACE SETTLEMENT, WHICH WE HAD SOUGHT UNREMITTINGLY DURING ALMOST FOUR YEARS OF FRUITLESS TALKS. UNDER THE PERSONAL DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT, OUR NEGOTIATORS, HEADED BY DR. HENRY KISSINGER, SUCCEEDED IN WORKING OUT A DRAFT AGREEMENT WHICH INCORPORATED THE ESSENCE OF THE PRESIDENT'S MAY 8 PROPOSAL FOR SETTLING THE MILITARY ISSUES AND PROVIDING THE FRAMEWORK FOR SOUTH VIET- NAM'S POLITICAL PROBLEMS TO BE DECIDED BY THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 071728

VIETNAMESE THEMSELVES.

WE HAD NO ILLUSIONS THAT ENDING SUCH A LONG AND COMPLEX CONFLICT WOULD BE EITHER QUICK OR EASY. ANY SETTLEMENT INEVITABLY REQUIRED DIFFICULT COMPROMISES ON QUESTIONS OF MAJOR INTEREST TO BOTH SOUTH AND NORTH VIET- NAM, AND WE WERE DETERMINED THAT THE FINAL AGREEMENT WOULD BE FAIR TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED. HENCE WE

WERE DEEPLY DISMAYED IN DECEMBER WHEN HANOI-- THOUGH ALMOST ALL QUESTIONS OF SUBSTANCE HAD BEEN RESOLVED-- DECIDED TO BLOCK FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT. AS IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT HANOI WAS ACTING FOR TACTICAL

REASONS UNRELATED TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, THE PRESIDENT, AFTER CAREFULLY WEIGHING ALL FACTORS INVOLVED, DECIDED TO RESUME THE BOMBING AND MINING OF HARBORS IN NORTH VIET- NAM. TWO WEEKS LATER NORTH VIET- NAM AGREED TO RETURN TO SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS AND U. S. AIR OPERATIONS AGAINST THE DRV WERE HALTED.

PRIVATE TALKS WERE RESUMED IN PARIS ON JANUARY 8, 1973, AND THE FINAL BREAKTHROUGH CAME SHORTLY THEREAFTER. ON JANUARY 23 PRESIDENT NIXON WAS ABLE TO ANNOUNCE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT AN HONORABLE SETTLEMENT EMBRACING OUR FUNDAMENTAL GOALS HAD BEEN REACHED -- AN INTERNATIONALLY SUPERVISED CEASE- FIRE IN VIET- NAM WITH THE PROSPECT OF EARLY CEASE- FIRES ALSO IN LAOS AND CAMBODIA. THE SETTLEMENT PROVIDES FOR THE RETURN OF ALL AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR (POWS) WITHIN 60 DAYS OF THE CEASE- FIRE AND AN ACCOUNTING FOR THOSE MISSING IN ACTION; THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL AMERICAN FORCES FROM VIET- NAM, ALSO WITHIN 60 DAYS OF THE CEASE- FIRE; AND THE GUARANTEED RIGHT OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURE WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. THE AGREEMENT WAS CONCLUDED AND WENT INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 27. A MONTH LATER THE AGREEMENT RECEIVED THE FORMAL ENDORSEMENT AND SUPPORT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CONVENED FOR THE PURPOSE OF FURTHER CONSOLIDATING PEACE IN INDOCHINA. THE CONFERENCE TOOK THE IMPORTANT SPECIFIC STEP OF ESTABLISHING A CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ITS PARTICIPANTS AND THE SUPERVISORY ORGANIZATIONS SET UP IN VIET- NAM, THUS LENDING ADDITIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 071728

WEIGHT TO THE PEACEKEEPING PROCESS.

CAPTURED AND MISSING AMERICANS - THE FATE OF AMERICAN POWS AND PERSONNEL LISTED AS MISSING IN ACTION IN INDOCHINA REMAINED A CRUCIAL PROBLEM DURING THE LAST YEAR. THE RELEASE OF THESE PRISONERS AND AN ACCOUNTING FOR THE MISSING WAS A PRIMARY U. S. POLICY GOAL IN NEGOTIATIONS TO END THE WAR. CLOSE TO 2,000 U. S. SERVICEMEN AND 50 U. S. CIVILIANS WERE INVOLVED. SOME HAD BEEN PRISONERS FOR OVER EIGHT YEARS-- MORE THAN TWICE AS LONG AS ANY PRISONERS OF WAR EVER BEFORE IN OUR HISTORY.

THUS THE PEACE AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR THEIR RE-

TURN WITHIN 60 DAYS OF SIGNING WAS GREETED WITH UNIVERSAL ACCLAIM. THE AGREEMENT ALSO CONTAINED IMPORTANT PROVISIONS FOR ACCOUNTING FOR THE MISSING IN ACTION AND DEAD. THE FIRST PRISONERS WERE RELEASED FEBRUARY 12, 1973.

THROUGHOUT 1972 WE MADE CLEAR TO THE COMMUNIST SIDE THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO THE RELEASE OF ALL POWS WITH AN ACCOUNTING FOR THE MISSING. A PROTOCOL TO THE AGREEMENT SET SPECIFIC PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS AND ACCOUNTING FOR T

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE071728
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/ VN: L. B. ASKEW: AOA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730458/abqcdyro.tel
Line Count: 173
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 17 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <29-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY' S FOREIGN POLICY REPORT CINCPAC FOR POLAD 1. TEXT OF SECTION ON VIET- NAM IN SECRETARY' S 1972 REPORT ON U. S. FOREIGN POLICY FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT: THE YEAR 1972 WILL STAND OUT AS THE TURNING POINT IN THE VIET- NAM CONFLICT-- THE TIME WHEN THE FOUNDA-
TAGS: PFOR
To: SAIGON
CINCPAC INFO JEC PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005